

September 16, 2020

St. Louis County COVID-19 Update

Flu Season

The flu season is here and the proper cautionary steps that are currently being used to reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as keeping social distance, wearing masks in public and washing hands, also help ward off the flu virus. It is critical to continue to take those steps, knowing that they can protect you, your family and others from both COVID and the flu.

Flu shots are widely available at urgent care centers, doctors' offices and through many of our employers. However, you can now make an appointment for a flu vaccine now online [here](#).

Vaccinations are available at two St. Louis County Department of Public Health locations beginning September 21. As a drive up service, flu shots will be free at John C. Murphy Health Center in Berkeley and the South County Health Center, and at other pop-up events across the county starting in late September.

CARES Act Funding

This morning, County Executive Dr. Sam Page gave an update on the status of CARES Act funds for municipalities and small businesses.

Over the last several months, the County Executive has met with many St. Louis County municipal leaders about the need to provide a portion of this funding to local governments for public safety expenses related to the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. \$47M of the grant funds have been set aside and will be allocated to the 88 incorporated municipalities in St. Louis County through our Municipal Relief Program. This will provide municipalities with financial support for eligible expenses and other costs incurred or anticipated by municipalities in their COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

Additionally, St. Louis County has allocated millions in CARES Act funds to public health and humanitarian relief initiatives that prioritize areas of St. Louis County disproportionately affected by COVID-19; this allocation approach represents an equitable framework. A web-based application for the Municipal Relief Program is now available at stlcorona.com/municipal. St. Louis County is committed to ensuring Municipal Relief Program funds are efficiently and effectively transferred to municipalities. Clear documentation and accurate reporting are essential to manage compliance risk and minimize the possibility that costs are deemed ineligible and funds are ordered to be returned to the federal government. Updates and additional guidance, documents and other relevant resources will continue to be posted online as they become available at stlcorona.com

In regard to the Small Business Relief Program, more than 1,300 applications have been approved, totaling \$15.6 million with about \$12 million already distributed via check.

Approximately 90 percent of the 1,662 valid applications have been approved and aim to have the rest approved by the end of the month. The business and total amount received is available on our transparency portal online [here](#). At this time, all \$173.5 million received from the federal government in late April will be allocated by the end of the year.

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